(c) whether the audit has pointed out any shortcomings/deficiencies in the system of settling claims; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No refund-claim cases are pending on these Divisional Railway Offices. All cases pertaining to refund are dealt with at Headquarters Office, Bombay. The claim cases for refund pending settlement pertaining to these Divisional Offices are as under:—

Ahmedabad	68
Vadodara	Nil
Rajkot	103
Bhavnagar	58

In addition 636 cases of ticket refunds are pending. However, the record of such cases is not maintained Division-wise.

(b) 30 days.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) All out efforts are made to settle the refund-claims cases within the target time.

Restriction on Sale of Railway Time Tables

3781. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any restriction on the sale of All India Time Tables (At a glance) as well as Zonal Railway Time Tables, published by private parties, on book stalls at Railway Stations; and

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Book Stalls at Railway Stations sell official publication/authorised private publication of the Railway Time Tables. W. Newman & Co. Ltd. are authorised private publishers for All India Railway Time Table. Railway Time Table Office, Varanasi, are authorised publishers for Hindi version of Trains at a Glance. Zonal Railways are authorised publishers of their respective Zonal Time Tables. However, Trains at a Glance, a publication of the Ministry of Railways is covered under copyright Act.

Earnest Money for vending contract at Railway Stations

3782. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased tos tate:

(a) whether there is any policy for depositing money as earnest money while applying for a vending contract at Railway Stations; and

(b) if so, the instructions issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Zonal Railways are following the practice of collecting earnest money from the applicants for award of catering/vending licences. Such earnest money is refunded to the unsuccessful applicants after the allotment of licence.

More AC-First Class Coaches in A.P. and T.N. Expresses

3783. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more AC-First Class Coaches will be attached to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Express Trains;

(b) why is this long pending demand not yet considered; and

(c) by when will it be actually implemented?